

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please replace the claims, including all prior versions, with the listing of claims below.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) ~~Method~~A method for monitoring and control of an IP budget of a subscriber available in a packet-based communication network during online charge assessment of data transmissions, comprising:

~~_____ in which providing~~ a control function in a network node of the communication network ~~is provided~~ which administers a central IP budget assigned by a charge computer; ~~and which,~~

~~_____ charging a central IP budget, with a level of the charge being determined on a data stream-specific basis,~~ in accordance with assessment charges of the charge computer, for usage of resources of a data transmission of a number of data streams in a context which can be assigned to a subscriber, ~~charges a central IP budget, with the level of the charge being determined on a data stream-specific basis.~~

2. (Currently amended) ~~The Method~~method in accordance with claim 1,

~~characterized in that wherein~~

a data stream-specific conversion factor or weighting factor is specified on the charge computer side for determining the level of the charge by a data stream, after transmission of a data volume in the data stream the transmitted data volume is weighted by the control function with the weighting factor, from this a corresponding proportion of the IP budget is determined and the proportion of the IP budget produced from this is deducted directly from the IP budget.

3. (Currently amended) ~~Method~~The method in accordance with claim 1 ~~or 2,~~

~~characterized in that wherein~~

to determine the weighting factor, the control function accesses a table which comprises data stream-specific assessment charges for data streams which can be assigned to a subscriber.

4. (Currently amended) ~~Method~~The method in accordance with ~~one of the previous claims.~~
~~characterized in that claim 1, wherein~~
a GPRS network is used as the packet-based communication network.

5. (Currently amended) ~~Method~~The method in accordance with claim 4,
~~characterized in that wherein~~
the control function is located in a GGSN.

6. (Currently amended) ~~Method~~The method in accordance with ~~one of the previous claims,~~
~~characterized in that claim 1, wherein~~
when a new data stream is added, at least one of a new weighting factor, or a new table, or and an
index to or identifier for a table element is transferred by the charge computer to the control
function.

7. (Currently amended) ~~Method~~The method in accordance with ~~one of the previous claims.~~
~~characterized in that claim 1, wherein~~
the central IP budget is ~~only~~ charged for resource usage by those data streams which ~~all~~ belong to
one context to which an IP address of ~~the~~ a same subscriber can be assigned.

8. (Currently amended) ~~Method~~The method in accordance with ~~one of the previous claims.~~
~~characterized in that claim 1, wherein~~
~~The~~ the central IP budget is ~~only~~ charged for usage of resources by those data streams which ~~all~~
belong to ~~the~~ a same context.

9. (Currently amended) ~~Method~~The method in accordance with ~~one of the previous claims.~~
~~characterized in that claim 1, wherein~~
on addition of a new data stream and usage of resources on ~~the~~ part of the new data stream the
existing IP budget is charged.

10. (Currently amended) ~~Method~~The method in accordance with claim 9,
~~characterized in that wherein~~

the charge computer allocates to the control function an additional IP budget for administration.

11. (Currently amended) ~~Method~~ The method in accordance with ~~one of the previous claims~~
~~characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein

the control function, on addition and/or removal of at least one data stream, transfers ~~the~~ remaining IP budget to the charge computer and the charge computer assigns the control function a new IP budget.

12. (Currently amended) ~~Method~~ The method in accordance with ~~one of the previous claims~~
~~characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein

the control function informs the charge computer about the addition and/or removal of a data stream and the charge computer gives the control function specifications about a ~~further~~ another use of the IP budget.

13. (Currently amended) ~~Method~~ The method in accordance with ~~one of the Claims 2 to 12,~~
~~characterized in that~~ claim 2, wherein

the charge computer informs the control function by means of a table or ~~by means of~~ a pointer to a position in a table about the weighting factor with which a transmitted data volume in a data stream is to be newly weighted in the event of a parameter change.